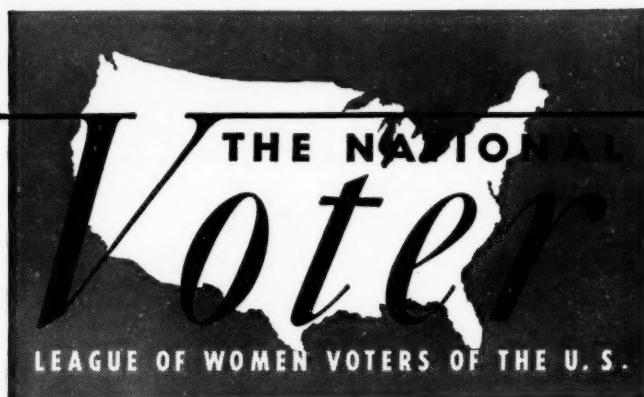


FEBRUARY 15, 1955



1026 17th STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

## The Monroe Doctrine in Asia

THE Senate, on February 9, by a vote of 64 to six, consented to the ratification of the Mutual Defense Treaty with the Republic of China. This vote followed by a few days Senate consent, 82 to one, to a defense treaty with seven other nations for the collective defense of Southeast Asia. Essential features of the two treaties resemble the principle of the Monroe Doctrine enunciated over a century ago for the protection of the Western Hemisphere. Passage of the Asian treaties extends that doctrine to cover a good part of Asia.

### The Treaty with China

Articles II and V of the defense treaty with the Republic of China give its essence. Article II reads: "In order more effectively to achieve the objective of this treaty, the parties separately and jointly by self-help and mutual aid will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack and Communist subversive activities directed from without against their territorial and political stability." Article V reads: "Each party recognizes that an armed attack in the West Pacific area directed against the territories of either of the parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes."

Article VI of the treaty states that the (Chinese Nationalist) territories referred to include Formosa and the Pescadores Islands off the coast of Formosa. Other territories might be included by mutual agreement. The treaty has no termination date but either party may end it after a notice of one year has been given to the other party. The treaty also states that it will not affect in any way either party's obligations and rights under the United Nations Charter.

The defense treaty with the Chinese Republic parallels the recently adopted Joint Congressional Resolution by which the United States declared its intention of defending areas controlled by the Chinese Nationalists. The Resolution implies that the President has the authority to use armed force to protect other areas deemed essential to the defense of Formosa, whereas the treaty is restricted to Formosa and the Pescadores.

### The Southeast Asia Treaty

The Southeast Asia Collective Security Defense Treaty, signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan, contains language similar to that of the treaty with the Republic of China. A Communist attack on one party will be considered to endanger the peace and security of all the other parties and each party agrees to meet that danger according to its own constitutional processes. The treaty also specifies that if there is a threat to the territorial integrity or political independence of a country through subversion, rather than armed attack, the parties will consult with each other as to measures to be taken for their common defense. The Southeast Asia treaty also sets up a Council through which the countries may discuss their common problems. The first meeting of the Council will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on February 23.

### Pacific Pacts Compared to Atlantic Pact

The commitments of the two defense treaties differ in at least four important respects from those of the North Atlantic Treaty. One difference is that there is no intention at the present time to build a defense organization in Southeast Asia similar to that created in Western Europe.

Another difference is that the United States commitment in Asia is less automatic. Under the European treaty, an attack on one country is automatically considered to be an attack on all and each signatory to the treaty is obligated to come to the defense of another. Under the two Asian treaties, an attack on one party is considered to endanger the peace and security of all others and each party to the treaty will act according to its constitutional processes; that is, an attack on one party does not automatically require other parties to go to war in its defense.

A third difference between United States commitment in Asia and in Europe is that under the North Atlantic Treaty any kind of armed attack would bring into force the provisions of the treaty, whereas under the Asian treaties the United States would act only in the event of a Communist armed attack. If an attack occurred in Southeast Asia, for example, by a non-Communist country or non-Communist group, the United States would be obligated only (1) to consult with the other treaty powers and (2) to consider the problem in the United Nations.

(Continued on page 2)

STOP on the first Sunday of each month (next one, March 6)  
LOOK at your radio dial and turn it to NBC at 4:00 P.M. (EST)  
LISTEN to the League's five-minute network spot on "Week-end"

## National Council to Meet

**T**HE national Council of the League will meet in Washington, D. C., April 26-29. The Council is composed of two delegates chosen by the local Leagues in each state and territorial League and the District of Columbia League; one delegate chosen by the local Leagues in each state or territory where there is no recognized state or territorial League; and the members of the Board of Directors.

The delegates to the Council reflect the thinking of League members within the state when they give guidance to the Board on Program, methods of work, and budget. The Council also adopts a budget for the ensuing League year.

The Council is authorized to change the Current Agenda in the event of an emergency, according to terms in the national By-laws; no changes have been proposed for consideration at the coming meeting.

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of the United States, Mrs. John G. Lee, President, recently expressed to the Senate District of Columbia Committee support of suffrage for D. C. citizens. In a letter sent to the Committee during hearings on S. 669, Mrs. Lee stated that the League has long supported suffrage and self-government for the District of Columbia. Copies of the testimony free upon request.

### MONROE DOCTRINE IN ASIA—Cont'd

A fourth difference between the European and Asian treaties is that the Asian treaties refer to subversion as well as armed attack. The North Atlantic Treaty contains no such reference.

One of the main reasons why the language of the Asian treaties follows the pattern of the Monroe Doctrine rather than that of the North Atlantic Treaty is to avoid within the United States any controversy over the constitutional powers of the President as commander-in-chief versus the power of the Congress to declare war. Mr. Dulles has assured the Senate that before the United States takes any action to defend a country in Asia, Congress would be asked to give its approval unless, in the words of the Secretary of State, "... the emergency were so great that prompt action was necessary to save a vital interest of the United States."

Although the language of the Asian treaties tries to obviate the controversy over the President's constitutional powers, the treaty with the Republic of China did arouse some debate. In its report on that treaty the Senate Foreign Relations Committee added three "understandings" which place a strong obligation on the President.

First, it is the understanding of the Senate that nothing in the present treaty shall be construed as affecting or modifying the legal status or the sovereignty of Formosa or the Pescadores.

Second, if the Republic of China or the United States wishes to extend the coverage of the area to be defended, such as including the offshore islands of Matsu and Quemoy, prior approval of the United States Senate must be given.

Third, the provisions of the treaty can be applied only in the event of external armed attack, and military operations in the area shall not be undertaken except by joint agreement. This is to prevent the Chinese Nationalists from attacking the Chinese mainland for any purpose other than self-defense.

## ★ CONGRESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT ★

**TREATIES:** The Senate agreed to ratification of: the Southeast Asia Collective Security Defense Treaty, Feb. 1, by a vote of 82 yeas, 1 nay; the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of China, Feb. 9, by a vote of 64 yeas, 6 nays.

**U.N. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** A request for funds to cover a U. S. contribution to the U.N. Technical Assistance fund (\$8 million) for the first half of 1955 was included in the \$913,508,767 supplementary appropriation request which the President sent to Congress Feb. 10. Referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**TRADE:** The House Ways and Means Committee reported, Feb. 10, H.R. 1\*, extension of the Trade Agreements Act for three years, with a few modifications, the principal one being that no trade agreement could interfere with the U. S. agricultural price support program. The bill now goes to the House.

**D. C. HOME RULE:** The Senate District of Columbia Committee held a hearing Feb. 3 on S. 669\*, which would provide an elected Mayor, Council and Board of Education for the District. Eighteen witnesses appeared in support of the bill.

**PRESIDENTIAL ITEM VETO:** H.J. Res. 55, introduced by Rep. Keating (R., N. Y.) to grant the President, by constitutional amendment, the power to veto individual items in appropriation bills. Referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

### CODES OF PROCEDURES FOR COMMITTEE

**HEARINGS:** H. Res. 20, introduced by Rep. Celler (D., N. Y.) proposes a code of procedures for House Committees and Subcommittees, including measures for protection of witnesses and third persons adversely affected by testimony, with enforcement provisions. H. Res. 61, introduced by Rep. Scott (R., Pa.) would amend the House Rules to apply to all Committees and Subcommittees and to provide safeguards for rights of witnesses and third persons adversely affected by testimony, without enforcement provisions. Both bills were referred to the House Rules Committee.

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES:

H. J. Res. 10, introduced by Rep. Celler (D., N. Y.) would establish a joint Committee of 14 members from the Senate and House Judiciary Committees to have exclusive jurisdiction over investigation of all subversive activities in the United States, with emphasis on enacting necessary remedial legislation. Referred to House Rules Committee.

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY:

H. J. Res. 167, sponsored by Rep. Frelinghuysen (R., N. J.) would establish a joint Committee of 12, six from the Judiciary Committee of each house, to investigate subversive activities, and includes a code of procedures for such a committee. Referred to the House Rules Committee.

\* Indicates League support

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